

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 684

By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to urge the State of Tennessee to provide additional funding to the Department of Education to improve the timeliness of test data received by local education agencies.

WHEREAS, every local education agency in Tennessee seeks to provide the best educational instruction for every student in its system; and

WHEREAS, the accountability testing program operated by the Tennessee Department of Education is a key tool in the development of a student and is utilized to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses, as well as identify those students who need remedial summer instruction; and

WHEREAS, currently it can take several months for systems and individual schools to receive tests' results and individual student data; a quicker turnaround time would greatly benefit the individual students, teachers, and schools across the state; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to the success of this State's children, and hence its economy and the total welfare of its people, that all test data for students be available to their respective school system as soon as possible to provide timely revisions, if necessary, to teaching strategies, curriculums and/or programs for the benefit of all students and that this most important issue be addressed by this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly expresses its unwavering support for an increase in funding for the Department of Education to improve the processing time required for state accountability tests, thus speeding the delivery and subsequent release of test data to the local education agencies of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby urge and encourage the Governor to include such an earmarked appropriation within the administration's General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2004-2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Phil Bredesen, Governor of Tennessee, and to the Commissioners of Finance and Administration and Education.